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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the sentencing today of Dean A. Spencer, 31 of Richmond, Virginia, by the Honorable James R. Spencer, United States District Court Judge, to 204 months incarceration for heroin trafficking.

In October 1997 defendant Spencer was convicted in federal court of possession of heroin with intent to distribute, and sentenced to 78 months incarceration to be followed by three years of supervised release. The defendant began his supervised release in January 2002. However, because he did not satisfactorily complete a drug treatment program as ordered, and continued to use drugs, the U.S. Probation Office sought to have his probation revoked and Spencer returned to prison. On April 16, 2002, Judge Spencer directed the issuance of a federal probation violation arrest warrant for the defendant.

On April 23, 2002, the warrant was executed and Dean Spencer was arrested at his residence. During a search of the residence, nine plastic bags of heroin were found along with electronic scales, and related drug paraphernalia. The total weight of the heroin was 10.64 grams.

On July 15, 2002, Dean Arnell Spencer was indicted by a federal grand jury in Richmond on one count of possession with intent to distribute heroin. On October 29, 2002, he entered a guilty plea.

The case was investigated by the United States Marshals Service and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney S. David Schiller.